

App. No. 09/976,597
Amendment A

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-27 and 39-53 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Eleven claims are pending in the application: Claims 28-38.

Restriction Requirement

1. Claims 1-53 are subject to a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C § 121. Election of one of the four groups of claims is required.

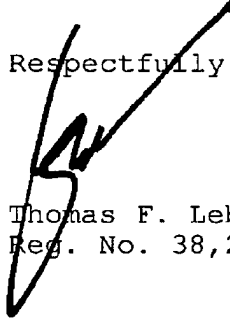
In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect the claims of Group II: claims 28-38.

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C O N C L U S I O N

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited. Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Thomas F. Lebens at (805) 781-2865 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,


Thomas F. Lebens
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Dated: January 9, 2004

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